

Mosque (The Islamic Center)
2551 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS
DC,
WASH,
491-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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WASH,
491-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia		COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Mosque			HABS NO. DC-286
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE The Islamic Center			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2551 Massachusetts Avenue, NW			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1949-1957		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Plans drawn by Egyptian Ministry of WAKFS (Works); American architects were Irwin S. Porter and Sons	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The building was originally sponsored by diplomatic mission heads from Moslem countries to promote international understanding, and in keeping with this concept, President Eisenhower dedicated the building upon its completion. The wings now house the library, museum and offices of the Islamic Center.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Steel frame with limestone facing			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Complex consists of mosque with open forecourt and two wings joined by double arcade which encloses court on front; mosque capped by a 160' minaret and low central dome			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Battlemented eaves; Moorish arches			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Decorative features include: Turkish tile wainscoting and mihrab (indicator of direction of Mecca), Persian rugs, inlaid pulpit, ornamental carved plaster, mosaics, Arabic inscriptions. Artisans were imported to execute the decorative work.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Condition good			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u>			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS			DATE 8/11/83